



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LOCAL WOMAN SENTENCED  
IN CONNECTION WITH OVERDOSE DEATH**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced today that U.S. District Court Judge Robert Junell sentenced 22-year-old Emily Micah Suckarieh to 21 months in federal prison for distribution of Xanax, a class IV narcotic, that in combination with the methadone sold by Tiofila Santillana, resulted in the overdose death of 21-year-old Brandon Moore.

Both Santillana and Suckarieh were indicted by a federal grand jury in Midland in July 2008, for their role in the overdose death of Brandon Moore. An investigation showed that Moore was taken to Midland Memorial Hospital on April 10, 2008, after friends could not rouse him from sleep despite several hours of effort. Moore was placed on a ventilator and admitted to intensive care, where he never regained consciousness. He died on April 23, 2008, of acute mixed drug intoxication. Santillana was charged with distributing the methadone, and Suckarieh the benzodiazepine, or "Xanax", that were consumed by Moore before he lost consciousness. Suckarieh plead guilty to the federal charges on September 17, 2008. In January, a federal jury in Midland found Tiofila Santillana guilty of distribution of methadone. Santillana faces a mandatory minimum of 20 years in federal prison when she is sentenced later this year.

The Midland Police Department and the Midland County Sheriff's Office partnered with the Drug Enforcement Administration to conduct this investigation. Assistant United States Attorney John Klassen prosecuted the case for the Government.

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